

Khyentse Center Guest Lecture Series

16.07.2025

16:00

ESA-Ost, Room 120

Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Mathes

(Hong Kong)

Bcom ldan Rig pa'i ral gri's *Madhyamakālamkāropadeśa* Commentary

Bcom ldan Rig pa'i ral gri (1227–1305) was a Bka' gdams pa master who studied under the Snar thang abbot Skyo ston Smon lam tshul khriims (1219–1299) and other famous scholars such as Sa skya Paṇḍita (1182–1251) and Chag Lo Chos rje dpal (1197–1264). Interestingly, Rig ral turns against Sa paṇ's Madhyamaka interpretation of *buddha*-nature and is also listed in Tāranātha's (1575-1635) *gzhan stong* transmission lineage. Moreover, he is to my knowledge the only Tibetan scholar who wrote a commentary on the *Madhyamakālamkāropadeśa* (MAU), and in it, in any case, he fully endorses Ratnākaraśānti's strong leanings towards Yogācāra. Rig ral also stands out therein for his confronting Candrakīrti's Madhyamaka and criticizing, for example, the negation of a *svabhāva* (which amounts to going against *rang stong*). However, he falls short of using the technical term *gzhan stong*.

Together with my research assistant Daniel Enrique (Kathmandu) I have edited and translated Rig ral's MAU commentary. Based on that work I will present an analysis of the text mainly addressing the question whether Tāranātha's inclusion of Rig ral in the *gzhan stong* lineage is justified.

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